

Parish Profile



St. John the Baptist and the Village of Purbrook



January 2013
Revision 3



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The Parish

The Village of Purbrook

Part of the South Hampshire lowlands, Purbrook forms part of a large conurbation north of the city of Portsmouth and is sandwiched between the A3 road to the west and the A3M motorway to the east.

This conurbation lies within in the bounds of the former Forest of Bere that occupied the heathland and clay soils of the South Hampshire Lowland. The heathland areas in particular were lightly settled and there were hamlets and small farmsteads across the clay areas associated with small irregular enclosures. In the early nineteenth century large parts of the forest were sold and the land freed for development. Initially this took the form of ribbon development alongside the A3, an important route from London to the Portsmouth Naval Dockyard.

Administratively it is part of the Borough of Havant, on the east side of the borderline between Winchester City Council and Havant Borough Council. It comprises parts of two Local Authority Wards: Purbrook and Stakes. The Borough regularly returns a Conservative Member of Parliament, currently the Hon. David Willetts, who is a very active local MP as well as Minister for Universities and Science.



Purbrook is thought to have been founded on the site of clear water access, Puke Brook or Pur Brook. An 18th century toll road ran through the village and busy inns, founded with stabling, reflected the popularity of this important route from London to the Portsmouth Naval Dockyard. Gradual "Ribbon" development was followed by extensive planned building starting in the 1920's when transport needs were met by the Portsdown and Horndean Light Railway taking the route of the London Road which dissects Purbrook. Purbrook now merges seamlessly with Waterlooville to the north and Widley to the south, Southwick to the west and Bedhampton to the east. Purbrook church, the church hall and the vicarage sit in St John's conservation area and are just a few miles south of the South Downs National Park.

From a 1930's population of less than 2000, the Parish now houses approximately 10,000 souls. Owner occupancy runs at 74% (national average 68%), however Purbrook also has a high proportion -15% higher than the national average - of households in Housing Association/Registered Social Landlord





properties. Purbrook, then, has a diverse wealth profile, broadly a north/south divide in the parish with the northern part, Stakes Ward, showing pressing problems of housing and child poverty.

Parts of Stakes and one part of Purbrook are in the lowest 20% of the most deprived areas in England, using the 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation figures. Recently a major development started, the West of Waterlooville MDA (one of four Hampshire wide Major Development Areas) which may increase the local population by 3,000 to 4,000 within the next decade. See below....

Purbrook is served by Hampshire PCT, the largest PCT in the country. The nearest hospital is Queen Alexandra, 3km south of the parish and includes a very busy Accident and Emergency department. The Rowans Hospice is located north of Purbrook Heath where many parishioners play an active role in voluntary help and funding this well regarded but under-resourced facility.

The West of Waterlooville Major Development Area

Part of a nationwide plan reflecting the demand for housing in the South East of England, this development may represent a considerable challenge for the new incumbent. It is hoped that the new incumbent will ensure a significant Anglican voice contributes to the development of this new community.



The Hampshire County Council Structure Plan for 1996-2011 proposed four major developments across Hampshire. One of these is the development now started to the west of Waterlooville. Construction of the first 450 dwellings has started and completion is expected by 2017. Outline planning permission for a further 2,550 dwellings was granted in March 2012. This part of the MDA is known as Berewood and development in this area is expected to start in 2013, with average completions of 240 units per year until 2025.

Portsmouth Diocese has unveiled plans to create a 420-place academy at Berewood site to cater for four to 11-year-olds. The school will open in September 2014 if the government approves the scheme. Although it would be a Church of England School it will be open to the whole community and would not use faith as part of its admissions policy.

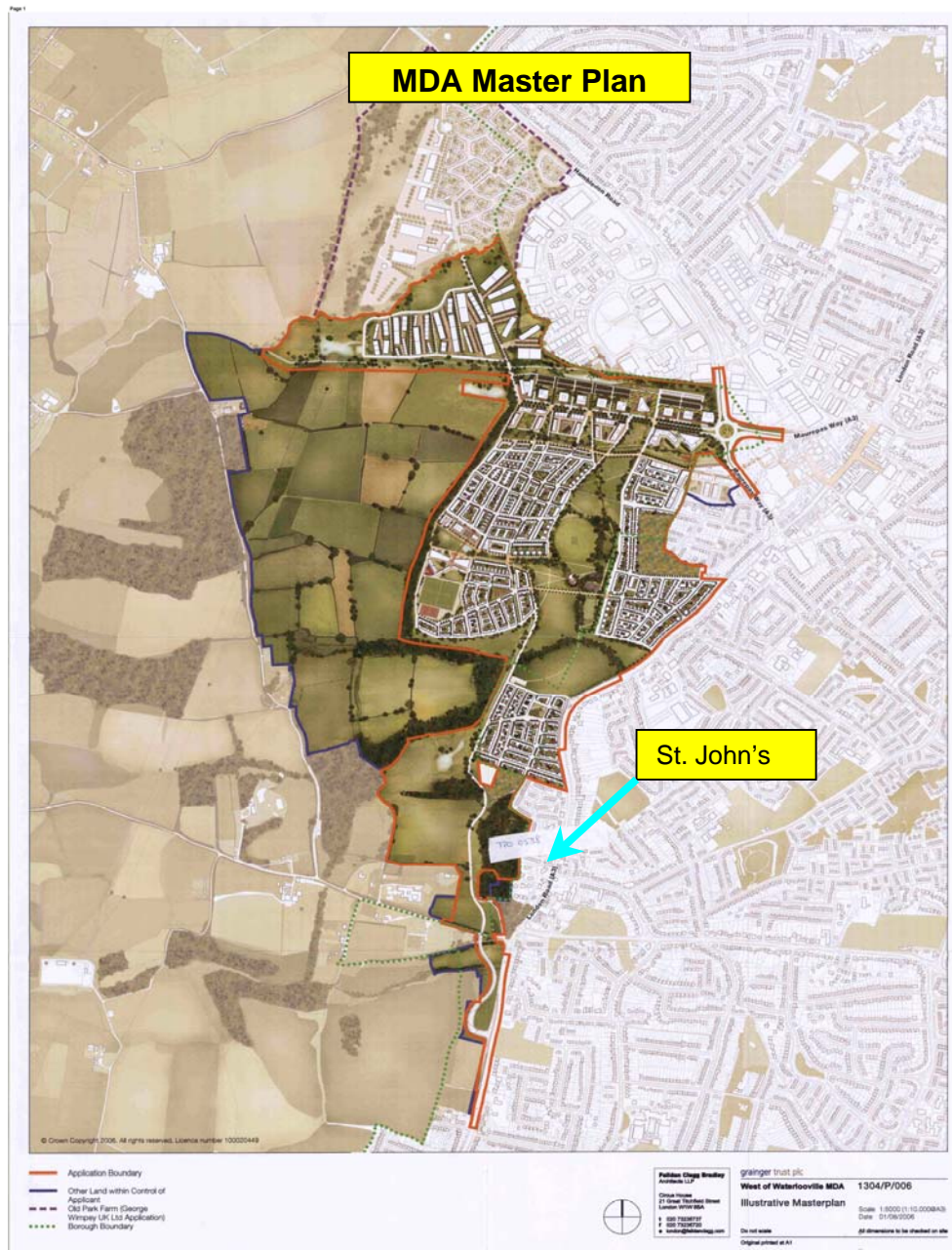


Agreed changes to the boundaries of the various parishes surrounding the MDA have not yet been agreed.

The development includes provision for adequate social housing, at least one new primary school, 12.5 hectares of

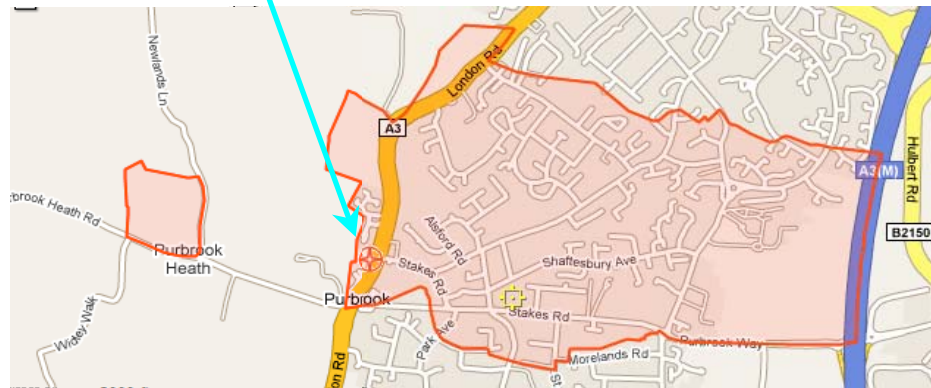
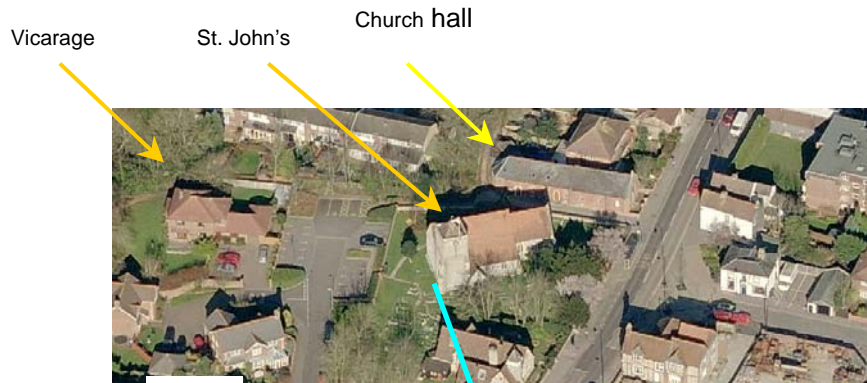
employment land to build on the successful industrial development in the south of Hampshire, a “local” centre, open spaces, recreational and play areas. Allotment provision and a new cemetery are also included in the plans. Grainger trust PLC who, along with George Wimpey, own this land and are responsible for the development.

A final reserved area that has provision for 1000 further dwellings exists to the north of the first two developments, but is subject to government approval and further local need.

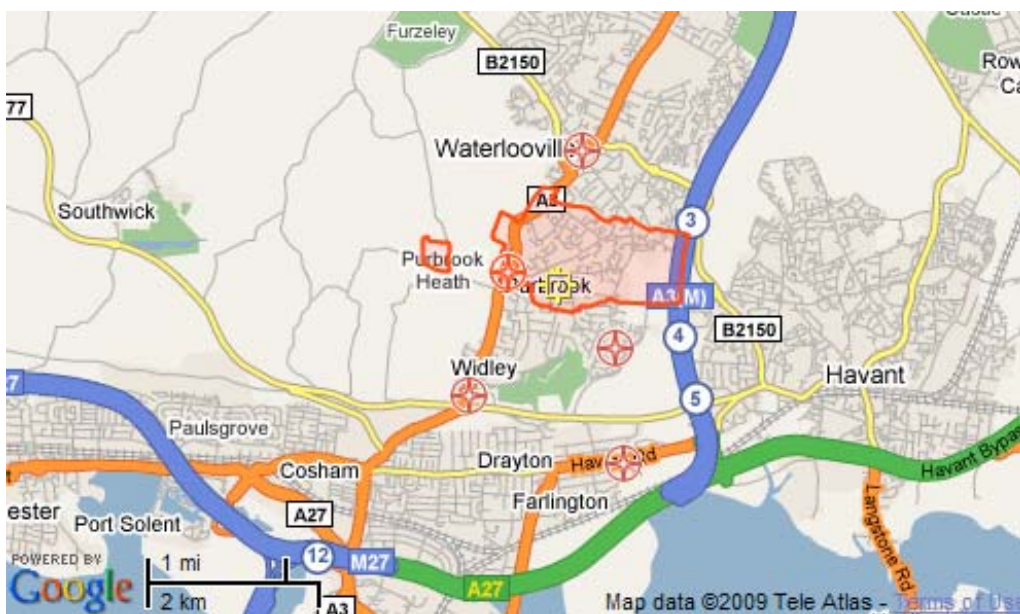


Maps

Aerial view of St John's



Location and Limits of Present Parish Boundary



Buildings

The Church



Construction of the church began in 1843 but conflict between the local squire and the Rector delayed consecration until 1858. The flint exterior is in the Decorated style with many Victorian stained glass windows and is largely original. The vestry has been extended to provide space for the clergy and choir and the nave is fitted with light-oak pews for approximately 200 people. The single bell was

replaced by a peal to celebrate the millennium.

The condition of the building is generally good but some necessary repairs were identified in the 2012 Quinquennial report. Those deemed 'urgent' will soon start and fund raising for the less pressing but more costly repairs is in hand. The external and internal walls, ceilings, plaster and paintwork are in good order but the floor shows signs of its age in uncarpeted areas. Internal fixtures, fittings and electrical wiring are in reasonable condition.

The conventional layout of the building, with the altar at the east end, is not conducive to many forms of service or worship-related activity but plans for re-ordering are currently on hold.

A cul-de-sac separates the church from the adjacent vicarage and parking is provided for the congregation and visitors to the church and the church hall.



The Church Hall

The Church Hall, which is situated adjacent to the Church, was originally built as a Methodist Chapel but has been used as our Parish Hall since 1932. Extensive alterations were completed in 2004; the building now has a large open area, kitchen, storage rooms and amenities on the ground floor and on the first floor a comfortable meeting room and an additional store. The hall is compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and is frequently used for both church and secular activities.



The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a spacious house built in 1995 with a south facing aspect. It has four bedrooms, kitchen/diner, utility room, large study, separate lounge and dining rooms, making this a comfortable family home. Standing in an enclosed well-stocked garden, it has a garage with ample parking space on a large drive and is sited adjacent to the church. A general store, chemist, post-office and bus stops are within walking distance and schools for all ages are not far away.



Pattern of Worship

Regular services follow the forms provided in Common Worship and are presently as follows:

Sunday Worship:

8.00 am Holy Communion (said) (Ave. attendance: 8 –15)

10.00 am *Holy Communion (sung) (Ave. attendance: 50+ 6 children)

10.00 am Kidzone in Church Hall

6.00 pm **Evening Prayer (BCP, sung) (Ave. attendance: 11)

Weekday Offices:

Wednesday - 10.30 am Holy Communion (said)

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 7.00 pm Evening Prayer

Occasional Services (2011):

Baptisms: 39

Weddings: 9

Funerals: 10

Easter Day attendance: 85

Christmas Eve & Christmas

Day attendance: 260

Electoral Roll: ~ 101

The reserve sacrament used by our Lay Assistants for home visits is held in an aumbry adjacent to the altar.

Baptisms are celebrated during the morning service or as an independent service if preferred by the family.

A Vestry Hour for the arrangement of Baptisms and marriages is held fortnightly on Wednesdays from 6.00 to 7.00 pm.

The present forms of service satisfy the majority of our congregation but ideas for new forms of worship should always be considered .

A Worship Committee, consisting of members of the congregation led by the incumbent, meets on an irregular basis to plan and arrange acts of worship for festivals or celebratory services.

*The Gospel responses, Gloria, Sursum Corda, Sanctus, the Lord's Prayer and the Agnus Dei are sung by the priest and people.

** Both sets of Responses and occasionally the Creed and the Collects are sung by the priest and people.

Church Music



Detail of flower arrangement

St. John's choir has been robed since 1865 and has been a member of the R.S.C.M since 1946. A choir of older church members maintains this long musical tradition and four-part harmony is provided for most of the sung services. As with most choirs new members are always being sought and made welcome when found.

The choir is trained, led and accompanied by our organist/choirmaster who plays for the weekly choir practice and services. From time to time the choir joins with singers from Christ Church, Portsdown to sing Evensong, alternating between St John's and Christ church.

The organ, used to accompany most services, is a two manual, tracker action pipe organ with thirteen stops. It was last overhauled about thirty years ago and is still providing reliable service

A wide, but dated, library of sheet music and RSCM Festival and Service Books is available from which anthems are selected and we have as our hymn book the New Anglican edition of 'Hymns Old and New'. The Common Worship Psalter is used for the pointing of psalms with chants selected from the Bollington Chant Book compiled by our organist.

Bell Ringing

Purbrook Ringers provide a Sunday service band each week for half an hour before the 10.00 am service for which they practice on most Wednesdays from 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

They also ring on special occasions such as weddings and some funeral services. By arrangement, and in support of the church building fund raising, they will ring in celebration of parishioner's special days.

They are a mixed age group from teenagers to several over 70. They regularly receive visiting groups of Cubs, Scouts, Guides and older people's groups to the tower and church, passing on the ancient and traditional skills required to keep our bells ringing for the years ahead.

Bell ringing is seen as an important part of St John's worship and also as pleasant social activity that keeps the ringers both physically and mentally on their toes. Many visitors to the tower comment on the fun that shares equally with the serious side of their bell ringing.



Mission, Lay Ministry and Pastoral Visitors

The Church

St. John's is a friendly place and all members of the congregation are encouraged to take an active role in the life and work of the church. Lay people support Sunday services by welcoming visitors, reading the lessons, leading the intercessions and assisting in the distribution of the Eucharist.

Our Lay Assistants frequently visit two local nursing/care homes to celebrate Communion with the Residents and staff, home visits are also undertaken to the sick or housebound.

A Clergy-led Lent course has not taken place during our present interregnum but members of our congregation attended a course organised by a sister church in our Cluster.

A Bible study group has a weekly meeting in 'Broadways', our Parish coffee shop.

Emmaus and Lent courses have been held in parishioners' homes when appropriate.

The Grange Approved Premises

'The Grange', a Probation Approved Premises is home to twenty male residents and is managed by a Senior Probation Officer assisted by six staff. Residents are closely monitored, the purpose being to enable a seamless transition between prison and freedom. 'The Grange' is the final step of rehabilitation that, hopefully, will enable ex-offenders to rehabilitate into the community without re-offending. St. John's welcomes residents to services under the terms of mutually agreed contracts.

The Rowans Hospice

The Rowans hospice is in a neighbouring parish but has close connections to St John's.

Local Schools

St. John's has strong links with Purbrook's Infant and Junior Schools and both establishments have held their Christmas services at St. John's. The church has been represented on the Junior School governing body and involved in assemblies and other activities with both schools. St. John's has also been involved in taking Sixth Form assemblies at Oaklands, a local Roman Catholic school.

There are six schools in the Parish, including Oaklands and St. Peter's Roman Catholic schools, with a total attendance of 3,317 pupils (December 2012)

Broadways Coffee Shop



Broadways coffee shop is operated for the benefit of the general public. It is located on the main London Road in Purbrook, and is managed and staffed by members of the congregation. It is open Monday to Saturday, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and any profit generated is being used to boost the church building fund.

Pastoral Care

A Pastoral Care group and has been founded and a number of volunteers who will be trained and CRB checked have been identified. Initially visits will be on a monthly basis to members of the congregation who require assistance either a listening ear, very small jobs or help with shopping. It is envisaged that if this proves successful and supported by the volunteers, it will grow and offer bereavement care and, ultimately, a Good Neighbours scheme to the local community

Overseas Links

We are twinned through the Inter-Diocesan West Africa Link, IDWAL, to the Ghanaian town of Odumase. Two members of our congregation have visited Odumase that is a relatively prosperous parish near Lake Volta and part of the area inhabited by the Krobe people. The Church is larger than St. John's but our donations have helped purchase books for the Parish School and instruments for the Band.

Kidzone Sponsored Child

Kidzone (our Sunday School), through the Christian Charity 'Compassion', sponsor a young girl, Debora, age 9, from a very poor area of Récifé in Brazil. The children bring what they can each week and leaders and helpers give £2 to £3 monthly. £21 is needed each month, with extra (if possible) for Christmas and for her birthday. We receive letters from Debora and send to her, with a different child or family writing the letter each time. We follow Debora's progress with interest and study the world map to see where she lives. All the children are involved and some of the very youngest are the most committed supporters.

Youth Work & Teaching

We have five youth groups: three uniformed; Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and two Church based; St Johns Puppet Group and our Sunday school, 'Kidzone'.

The Guides, Brownies and Rainbows meet in the church hall each week, their flags are presented and the members attend church for our occasional family services.

The puppet group meets every Friday evening and offers young people between the ages of 5 years & 14 years the opportunity to develop friendships and learn new skills. Performances with a theme to suit the Church season are given periodically through the year either in church or in the church hall.

Kidzone has a fluctuating membership of varying ages who meet in the church hall on Sunday mornings. Teaching follows the Roots syllabus, it is based on the liturgy and aims to make teaching rewarding and fun. Attendance varies, sometimes 6, sometimes 16, sometimes even more. Members join the congregation in church mid-way through the service to receive Communion or a blessing.

Periodic Children's Workshops, supervised by members of the congregation, have been held on a Saturday and centred on the appropriate season or festival. They are open to all young people and the work prepared by the participants is presented during the following day's service.

All young people are invited to participate in parish activities and are encouraged to take an active role in community events.

The Parish is very committed to Child Protection, taking its lead from the Diocese. As part of our strong commitment to young people, Our child protection representative and six supervisors for our church-based youth and children's groups successfully completed a certified child protection training day, devised and run by the diocese.



A view of the altar cloth made by members of St. John's congregation as part of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations

Fellowship

St. John's has an active social committee aiming to provide activities that will attract both young and old. Regular social activities include a spring and summer fair, an autumn fair and a Christmas fair, harvest lunch, strawberry tea, and parish breakfasts, a quiz nights and a Happy Christmas evening.

An opportunity for socialising is provided after the morning service when coffee is served in the church hall.

Our Parish Magazine, published monthly, provides details from the Parish Registers, a list of Sunday Readings, an insight into the previous month's social activities and a programme of forthcoming events.

Safeguarding

In August 2012 the Diocesan Office advised that:

'all Clergy, PCC members, Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Children and Pastoral Workers and any other parish church congregation member in a position of trust and responsibility attend relevant safeguarding training within 6 months of taking up their position, and should seek to up date this training approximately every 3 years.'

There are now Training Days covering five different areas:

Safeguarding Policy Training; Essential Awareness & Response to Safeguarding Adults; Essential Awareness & Response to Safeguarding Children; Recruiting Volunteers Safely; Managing Offenders in Church.

It is also mandatory that everyone who works with children and young people sign a Declaration Form and are CRB Checked every 5 years.

Finance

The financial affairs of St. John's are in good health with no outstanding liabilities and the Parish Share paid to date. The Parish Share for 2012 is £30,896.

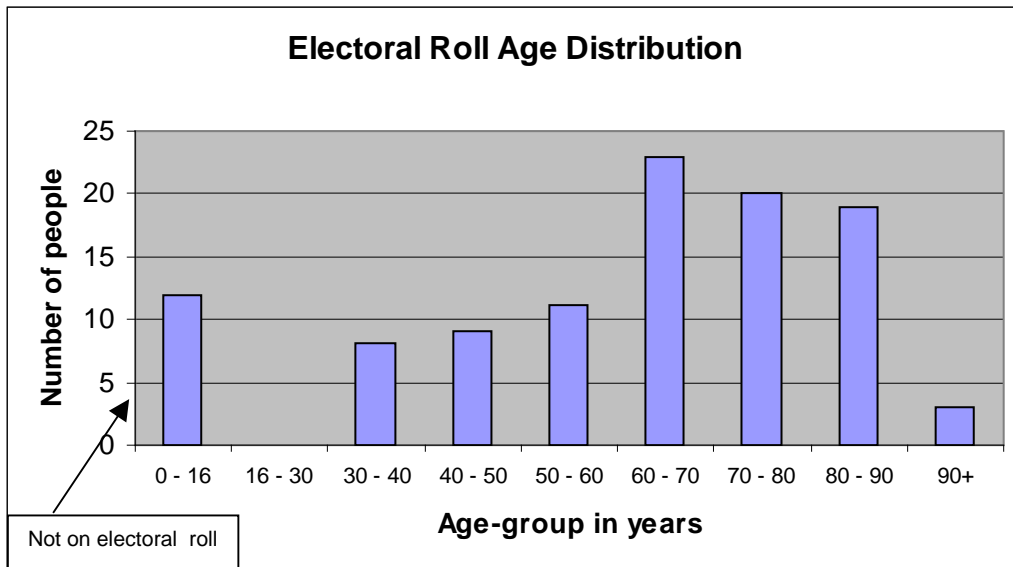
A summary statement of the financial activities for the year ending 31st December 2011 is shown below:

St John the Baptist Church					
Statement of Financial Activities					
For the period from 01 January 2011 to 31 December 2011					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	37,655.65	5,123.61	—	42,779.26	36,957.15
Activities for generating funds	27,522.87	622.10	—	28,144.97	36,446.48
Investment income	397.42	—	—	397.42	358.65
Incoming resources from charitable activities	184.50	123.70	—	308.20	246.38
Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	—
Total incoming resources	65,760.44	5,869.41	—	71,629.85	74,008.66
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	279.97	—	—	279.97	354.27
Cost of generating voluntary income	20.00	—	—	20.00	20.00
Charitable activities	64,599.92	2,400.47	—	67,000.39	88,053.69
Support costs	5,439.29	—	—	5,439.29	4,568.32
Total resources used	70,339.18	2,400.47	—	72,739.65	92,996.28
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	(4,578.74)	3,468.94	—	(1,109.80)	(18,987.62)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	3,832.55	240.00	—	4,072.55	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(4,072.55)	—	—	(4,072.55)	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses	(4,818.74)	3,708.94	—	(1,109.80)	(18,987.62)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	(4,818.74)	3,708.94	—	(1,109.80)	(18,987.62)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	344,977.52	48,672.38	—	393,649.90	412,637.52
Total funds carried forward	340,158.78	52,381.32	—	392,540.10	393,649.90

Parish Demographics

Approximately 35% of those on our Electoral Roll live within the parish

Age Range in Years								
0 - 16	16 - 30	30 - 40	40 - 50	50 - 60	60 - 70	70 - 80	80 - 90	90+
12	0	4	6	10	21	19	19	3
Number of People on Electoral Roll								

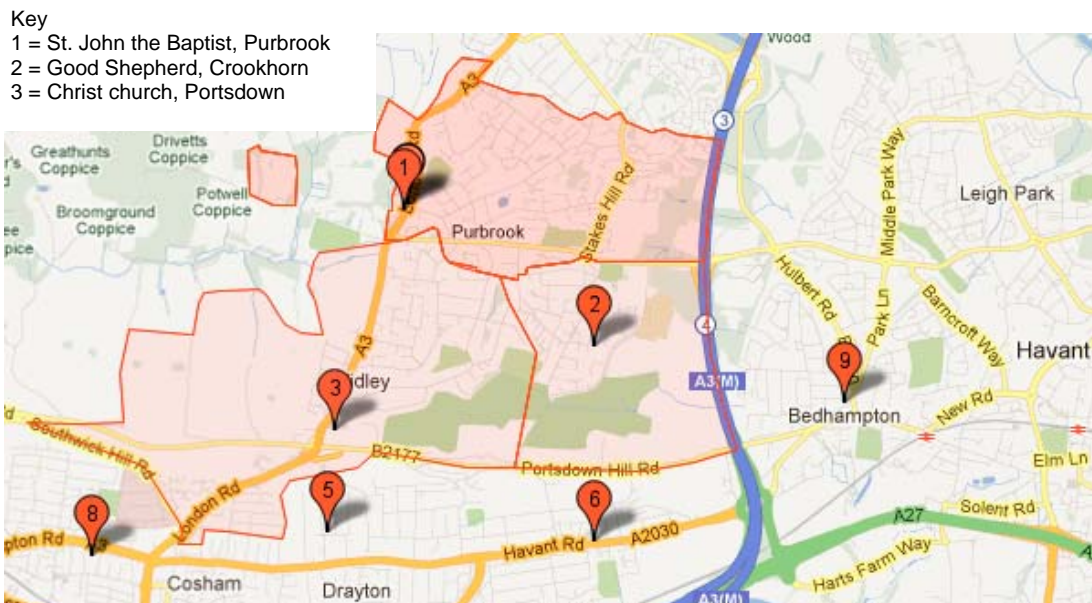


Our Cluster

Essential to this appointment is the establishment of a cluster consisting of the three parishes of Crookhorn, Portsdown and Purbrook. The newly-appointed priests-in-charge at Crookhorn and Purbrook and the current Vicar of Portsdown will be licensed to minister in all three parishes, with the expectation of equivalent cross-parish involvement of staff and volunteers. All clergy will need to be committed to being part of a common local vision, building collaborative relationships between the parishes and encouraging ministry to be shared and developed throughout the cluster.

Note: the Revd Wilson, Vicar of Portsdown, provided the foregoing on behalf of the Diocese.

Location of our Cluster Churches



Churchmanship

St. John the Baptist – Central, organ & robed choir, main services from CW and BCP (see also page 9)

Good Shepherd, Crookhorn – Evangelical, charismatic and contemporary, with keyboards, drums, guitars etc.

Christ church, Portsdown – Evangelical, occasional prayer book sung evensong to contemporary band-led worship

The Future

There are no immediate concerns regarding the fabric of the church buildings.

The PCC and members of the congregation of St. John's look forward to addressing the challenges of the future: an ageing and dwindling congregation; financial hardship; a general reduction in the number of paid clergy; the West of Waterlooville MDA; possible changes to our parish boundary and an additional three to four thousand people living locally to the parish.

To continue the success of the Church in Purbrook we need to retain our traditions, but also develop our ministry for people of all ages by ensuring that services are tailored to each target group.

We need to ensure that the church remains open, and our daily offices continue, each weekday.

We need to promote pastoral care by establishing visitor groups, and to develop our lay ministry in Sunday worship.

We need to ensure that St. John's is the church of choice for the residents of the MDA.

We need, again, to consider re-ordering St. John's to better address and accommodate the needs of modern acts of worship and today's Church.

We need an incumbent who will cheerfully invigorate, unite and inspire our congregation; who will bring a new dimension to our form of worship; who will lead, enable and encourage us to continue God's work in Purbrook; who will ensure that visitors to St. John's go home enlightened, uplifted and with a smile on their face.

Useful Websites

St John's web site:

<http://www.stjohnspurbrook.org.uk/index.html>

Parish Boundary:

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/parishmap.php?pcode=29/70>

Map and Aerial View of St. Johns:

<http://www.bing.com/maps/#JnE9LnBvNyUyYjVscSU3ZXNzdC4wJTdlcGcuMSZiYj01MC44Njk1NjEwMzYwODU3JTdlLTEuMDQyOTU4NTQwNDU4MTgIN2U1MC44NjcxMzExOTQwNzU0JTdlLTEuMDQ2MzAzMzYyNjcwNDI=>

Havant Borough Council, St. John's Conservation Area

<http://www.havant.gov.uk/havant-9885>

Havant Borough Council, details of the MDA:

<http://www.havant.gov.uk/havant-7988>

Hampshire County Council:

<http://www.hants.gov.uk>

Diocese of Portsmouth:

<http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org>

Rocking horse Day Care Nursery:

<http://montessori-daycare-nursery.co.uk/default.asp>

Crookhorn College of Technology:

<http://www.crookhorn.hants.sch.uk/>



The Ideal Candidate

The following are essential qualities for all candidates:

- † A collaborative leader and a visionary
- † A team player, able to seek, recognise, encourage and develop the latent talents of others
- † An articulate preacher
- † An interest in the social activities of the parish
- † Concern for the welfare of the congregation and a good listener
- † Family orientated and prepared to be involved in working with children and young people,
- † An advocate of visits to local schools and eager to develop children and young people's ministry
- † A supporter of outreach and pastoral visiting
- † Willing to marry divorcees in accordance with the Bishop's guidelines
- † An enthusiasm for promoting choral music

The following are considered to be additional and desirable qualities:

- † An interest in varied styles of worship
- † An interest in third world issues
- † An understanding of the importance of stable finances